

Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Canceled)

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) An aqueous polymer dispersion prepared by polymerizing a mixture of consisting essentially of the following monomers comprising:

acrylic acid or an ester thereof in the range 40 to 80 % by weight;

methacrylic acid or an ester thereof in the range 20 to 60 % by weight; and

a polymerizable surfactant in the range 0.01 to 9 % by weight,

wherein:

~~the dispersion is prepared by polymerizing the monomers~~ are polymerized in water and in the presence of an emulsifying agent;

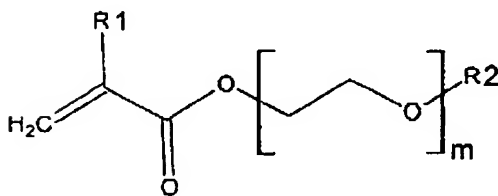
the emulsifying agent is partially or fully removed after the polymerization reaction; [,] and [wherein] the percentages refer to the percentage amount by weight of each monomer in the sum of the monomer weights.

4. (Currently amended) An aqueous polymer dispersion prepared by polymerizing a mixture of consisting essentially of the following monomers comprising:

ethyl acrylate in the range 40 to 80 % by weight;

methyl methacrylate in the range 20 to 60 % by weight; and

a monomer of the formula I and in the range 0.01 to 9 % by weight:



(I)

wherein m is an integer from 1-55,

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R1 is hydrogen or methyl, and

R2 is hydrogen or a carbon chain having 1 to 20 carbon atoms,

wherein:

the percentages refer to the percentage amount by weight of each monomer in the sum of the monomer weights; [, and wherein]

the dispersion is prepared by polymerizing the monomers are polymerized in water and in the presence of an emulsifying agent; and

the emulsifying agent is partially or fully removed after the polymerization reaction.

5. (Previously presented) An aqueous polymer dispersion prepared by polymerizing the following monomers in water and in the presence of an emulsifying agent:

acrylic acid or an ester thereof in the range 40 to 80 % by weight;

methacrylic acid or an ester thereof in the range 20 to 60 % by weight; and

a polymerizable surfactant in the range 0.01 to 9 % by weight,

wherein:

the percentages refer to the percentage amount by weight of each monomer in the sum of the monomer weights;

the emulsifying agent is an emulsifier with a molecular weight lower than 15 kD; and

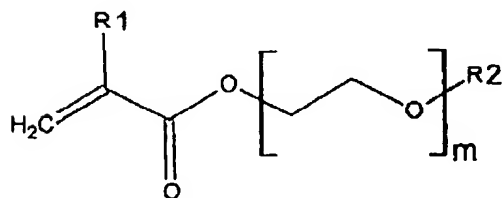
the emulsifying agent is partially or fully removed after the polymerization reaction.

6. (Previously presented) An aqueous polymer dispersion prepared by polymerizing the following monomers in water in the presence of an emulsifying agent:

ethyl acrylate in the range 40 to 80 % by weight;

methyl methacrylate in the range 20 to 60 % by weight; and

a monomer of the formula I and in the range 0.01 to 9 % by weight:



(I)

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wherein m is an integer from 1-55,

R1 is hydrogen or methyl, and

R2 is hydrogen or a carbon chain having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, and

wherein:

the percentages refer to the percentage amount by weight of each monomer in the sum of the monomer weights;

the emulsifying agent is an emulsifier with a molecular weight lower than 15 kD; and

the emulsifying agent is partially or fully removed after the polymerization reaction.

7. (Currently amended) An aqueous polymer dispersion prepared by polymerizing a mixture of monomers consisting essentially of the following monomers:

acrylic acid or an ester thereof in the range 40 to 80 % by weight;

methacrylic acid or an ester thereof in the range 20 to 60 % by weight; and

a polymerizable surfactant in the range 0.01 to 9 % by weight,

wherein:

the percentages refer to the percentage amount by weight of each monomer in the sum of the monomer weights, and [wherein]

the dispersion is prepared by polymerizing the monomers are polymerized in water.

8. (Currently amended) An aqueous polymer dispersion prepared by polymerizing a mixture of monomers consisting essentially of the following monomers:

ethyl acrylate in the range 40 to 80 % by weight;